

disease, the American Cancer Society recently presented him with the Excalibur Award. In addition, he was a strong supporter of Civista Medical Center in La Plata. At the first Mardi Gras Ball sponsored by the Physicians Memorial Hospital Foundation, he was crowned "King Rex." Robertson also raised money for Richard R. Clark Senior Center in La Plata, Hospice of Charles County, United Way of Charles County, Melwood, local churches and schools, and supported Newburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, Bel Alton Volunteer Fire Department, and local softball and baseball leagues.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to speak on behalf of the people of Southern Maryland, for whom Captain Billy gave so much, and thank him for all that he has done to benefit our community and our country. We remember his life and the memories he has given us. On behalf of the people of my district, thank you Captain Billy.

TRIBUTE TO REV. PHILIP RONAN BRENNAN

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the Reverend Philip Ronan Brennan, a remarkable man who has rendered fifty years of service to the people of my Northern California district.

Born on August 23, 1926, in Duleek, County Meath, Ireland, Philip Brennan was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest on June 18, 1950, in Dublin. His first assignment in the priesthood brought him half way around the world to the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, where he has made his home ever since. In fact, although born in Ireland, he is now a naturalized citizen of the United States. It is here that he has offered a lifetime of compassion and dedication to others.

Beginning as an associate pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Auburn, in 1950, Reverend Brennan later went on to serve as an assistant at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Truckee in 1952. In 1956, he began an eleven-year assignment as Chaplain at Folsom State Prison. In this capacity, he worked with some of those members of society who stand in the greatest need of comfort and guidance. Then, in 1967, Father Brennan advanced to the position of pastor at Corpus Christi parish in Tahoe City, California, which included the community of Squaw Valley.

In 1972, Rev. Philip Brennan returned to where he began his ministry, serving as pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Auburn. During his years in Auburn, he negotiated the purchase of a 16-acre parcel of land in North Auburn, moving St. Joseph's school from the overcrowded and landlocked downtown location to the new site. He also sparked the building of a large parish center there. Recognizing his contributions to the community, in 1988 the City of Auburn named Father Brennan as one of the 100 most influential people in the city's first 100 years of history.

After spending eight years at St. Joseph's, Father Brennan moved to the small town of Sutter Creek, serving for 12 years as pastor at

the Immaculate Conception parish. Since retirement in 1992, he has again settled in Auburn, where he continues to sit on Diocesan committees and acts as supply pastor throughout the Sacramento Diocese.

As he celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on June 18, I join with his many friends and admirers in honoring the Rev. Philip Ronan Brennan for his tireless efforts to meet the temporal and spiritual needs of those he has served so faithfully. No price can be placed on Father Brennan's contributions. His influence cannot be measured. His service cannot be gauged. His is a life well-lived, and I thank him for it.

HONORING JOSEPH PURE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, America has been very fortunate in that many of its finest citizens come from other lands, landing here to better their lives or sometimes only hoping to escape persecution. Joseph Pure is a man who did both. He was born in Bialystock, Poland 75 years ago. Like all European Jewry he came face to face with the Holocaust. He is more fortunate than the great majority because he survived. He came to America from a ravished Europe and in the course of his life here founded the very successful Woodworking Specialty Company and several other firms. But he did not forget his heritage and was extremely supportive of Jewish causes. He also became a mentor for a generation of young.

His strong character, determination, industry and luck made him a success in America and made America a better country for his coming here. He is a shining example of how people can prosper under freedom, away from the evils of totalitarianism.

Joseph Pure was married to the late Alice Pure and they had three children, Samuel, Ellen and Vivian, and a granddaughter, Nicole Negrin. I want to wish him a very happy 75th birthday. He has earned the best wishes of all of us.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
THOMAS J. ROOT ON HIS AP-  
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Thomas J. Root of Norwalk, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, TJ's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2004. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience

that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

TJ brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Norwalk High School, TJ has attained an astounding grade point average of 4.329, which places him fourth in his class of one hundred fifty-three students. TJ is a member of the National Honor Society, Principal's List, and was Captain of the Academic Challenge Team. Additionally, TJ placed fifth in the state on the Ohio Test of Scholastic Achievement Pre-Calculus exam. TJ was twice presented with the Huron County American Legion Award for his academic accomplishments.

Outside the classroom, TJ has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, TJ has earned letters in Varsity Football and Wrestling. TJ was also named Captain of both the Football and Wrestling teams. TJ has also been active in the Norwalk High School Key Club and with his church youth group.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Thomas J. Root. Our service academic offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that TJ will do very well during his career at West Point and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SALT RIVER  
PROJECT

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 2000*

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the profound and positive impact that Salt River Project has had on the state of Arizona for nearly 100 years. Accordingly, SRP has a deserving place in the Library of Congress' Local Legacies.

SRP is the oldest multipurpose federal reclamation project in the nation, older even than the state of Arizona. Named for the major river that supplies much of the water to the region, SRP is the Phoenix area's largest supplier of water and among the largest public power utilities in the United States.

SRP's history links people, events, and projects that have defined the progress and prosperity of Arizona. Its legacy includes the cooperative water management efforts of late nineteenth-century settlers, President Theodore Roosevelt's passage of the National Reclamation Act of 1902, and the construction of major dams throughout the state.

SRP continues to power the state of Arizona today, providing reliable and affordable electricity and water, and extraordinary community service. Its canals are an integral part of our environment and serve as a lasting reminder of SRP's importance to the future of our state.

For these and many others reasons, SRP is a fitting and valuable addition to the Library of Congress' Local Legacies.